

**Conservation Provisions of the
2002 Farm Bill (Farm Security
and Rural Investment Act of
2002)**

APPLYING CONSERVATION TO THE TEXAS LANDSCAPE

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Conservation Provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill

Farm Security and Rural
Investment Act of 2002

The 2002 Farm Bill

- Represents the single most significant commitment of resources toward conservation on private lands in the Nation's history
- Places strong emphasis on the conservation of working lands, ensuring that land remain both healthy and productive

Conservation Programs

- Programs that:
 - Protect and Enhance Natural Resources
 - Assist producers in the application of their conservation plans
 - Offer Technical, Financial and Educational Assistance on Privately Owned Land
 - Are voluntary

Assist Agricultural Producers Address Conservation Problems





Farm Bill 2002

Provide Financial and Technical Assistance
to Plan, Design, and Install Conservation
Measures



Conservation Program Highlights

- Conservation Technical Assistance
- 2002 Farm Bill Programs

Conservation Technical Assistance

- Provide Technical Assistance to SWCD cooperators in:
 - Developing conservation plans and Implementing Conservation Systems to meet producer goals for resource protection
 - Providing treatment of natural resource problems on Soil, Water, Air, Plant, and Animal Resources

Conservation Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



EQIP Key Points

- Promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible National goals
- Provides technical and financial assistance
- Applications are accepted throughout the year

EQIP Key Points (cont'd)

- Uses conservation district locally-led process
- Allows more flexibility for local decisions
- Provides financial assistance for structural, vegetative, and management practices
- Requires an EQIP plan of operations

EQIP Funding Summary Texas FY 2003

- Total Funds - \$46,766,090
- County Based Funding - \$22,666,086
- Special State Concerns - \$24,100,004

EQIP Funding Summary

- State Special Concerns
 - Water Quality
 - Water Quantity - Irrigation
 - AFO/CAFO (Beef, Swine, Dairy, Poultry)
 - Invasive Species
 - Brush Control for Water Conservation
 - Wildlife Habitat

Farmland Protection Program (FPP)



FRPP Key Points

- FPP is designed to protect the best agricultural land from conversion to non-agricultural uses
- Provides matching funds to organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements
- Landowners retain all rights to use the property for agriculture

FRPP Funding Summary Texas FY 2003

- Two areas have been identified for funding
- Total Funds Obligated - \$1,285,699

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)



WRP Key Points

- Provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore degraded wetlands and address wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns
- Landowners can enter into permanent, or 30 year easements or restoration agreements

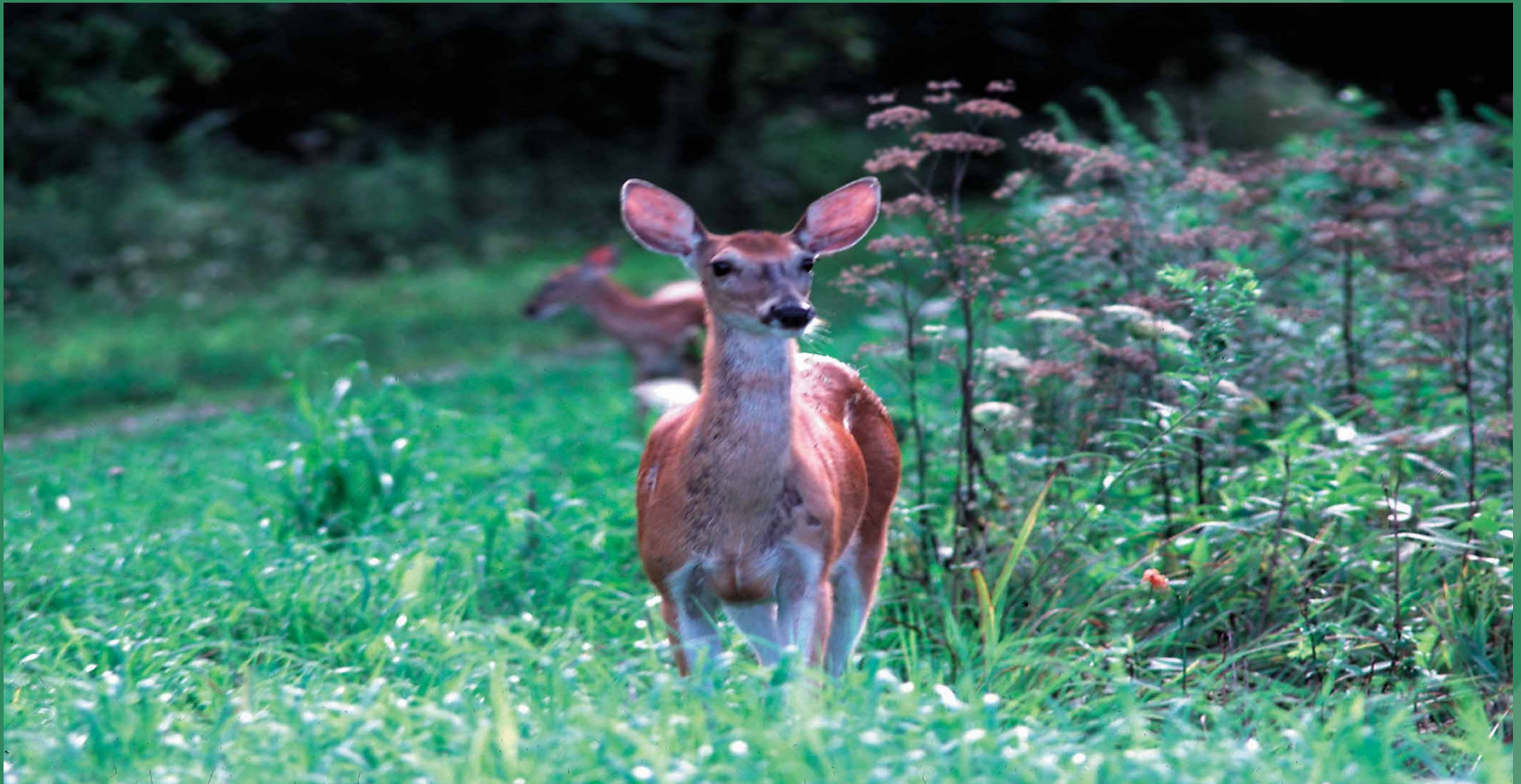
WRP Key Points

- Allows the Secretary to enroll up to 250,000 acres annually, up to a total of 2,275,000 acres
- Texas - Have enrolled 94 projects restoring 59, 000 acres of degraded wetlands

WRP Funding Summary Texas FY 2003

- 13 Easements
- 23,888 acres
- \$7,000,000

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)



WHIP Key Points

- Offers opportunities to landowners to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands
- Provides cost-share payments under 5- to 10-year agreements for upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic wildlife habitats

WHIP Funding Summary Texas FY 2003

- 18 contracts
- 53,00 Acres
- \$300,000





Farm Bill 2002

Grassland Reserve Program



GRP Key Points

- Offers opportunities to landowners to restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland
- Provides payment for permanent easements, 30 year easement, and 10 to 30 year rental payments

GRP Funding Summary FY 2003

- Texas allocated \$7,685,855
- Received \$367,714,796 in requests (1549 applications)
- Funded 19 contracts
- 30,646 Acres
- \$7,685,855

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- Administered by Farm Service Agency
- Technical Assistance from Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Permanent cover on environmentally sensitive land
- Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, Air Quality, Erosion Control

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- Producers Accepted into CRP receive annual rental payments and cost share to plant permanent cover
- Average annual rental payment is about \$35/Ac
- Contract are for 10 - 15 years

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) TEXAS

- Total Acres in CRP 3,763,943
- No. Counties with CRP 182
- No. Farms with CRP 20,375
- No. Acres in Trees 80,462
- Annual Rental Payments
\$140,000,000

Conservation Security Program (CSP)



CSP Key Points

- CSP provides payment for addressing resource concerns on working land
- CSP is a resource concern driven program, not conservation practice driven

CSP Key Points (cont'd)

- Resource concerns include:
 - Water quality (ground and surface), water quantity
 - Soil erosion, soil deposition, soil quality
 - Air quality
 - Plant suitability, plant condition, plant management
 - Animal habitat, animal management

CSP Key Points (cont'd)

- CSP must undergo rule making – more information will be available soon

Summary 2003

Program 2003 Funding

EQIP \$46,766,090

WHIP \$ 300,000

WRP \$ 7,000,000

GRP \$ 7,685,855

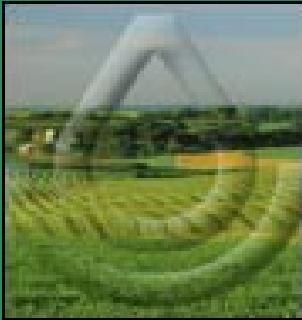
FRPP \$ 1,285,699

CRP \$140,000,000

Total \$203,037,644

Impact for Texas

- 5,698,865 Acres Received Conservation Treatment providing for Protection or Enhancement of natural resources (Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animals)
- Agricultural Producers are receiving \$160,937,000 in financial assistance



**United States Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation
Service**

**For More Information,
visit:**

- Your local USDA Service Center
- Your local conservation district
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

How to Participate

- ♦ **Contact Your Local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or USDA Service Center**
- ♦ **Become SWCD Cooperator**
- ♦ **Request Assistance in Development of Conservation Plan**
- ♦ **Sign-up for Applicable Farm Bill Program(s)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.